

REMARKS

The present application is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination.

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 1, 3, 5 to 7, 9 and 11 to 14, the independent claims being Claims 1 and 7. Claims 2, 4, 8 and 10 previously have been cancelled. Claims 3 and 9 have been amended herein. Claims 13 and 14 are newly added herein.

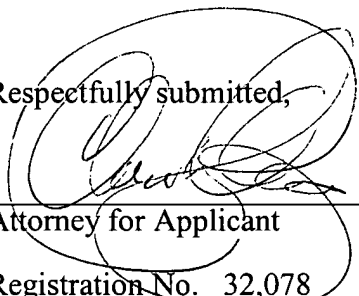
Applicant is in receipt of a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, mailed October 8, 2003, in which all prior pending Claims 1, 3, 5 to 7, 9, 11 and 12 were allowed.

Claims 3 and 9 have been amended herein to delete the subject matter of original dependent Claims 4 and 10 (previously cancelled in favor of prior amended Claims 3 and 9, respectively), respectively; the subject matter of original dependent Claims 4 and 10 has been re-presented in new dependent Claims 13 and 14, respectively, to provide Applicant an additional scope of protection commensurate with the original disclosure and original dependent Claims 4 and 10. No new matter has been added, Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable over the record art for at least the same reasons as the prior claims.

Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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